

# MIGRANT

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# MAGAZINE



## Kentucky Migrant Education Program

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## State PAC

By: Christina Benassi, State Identification and Recruitment Coordinator

Kentucky held its spring Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting March 19 at the Louisville Science Center. The meeting was a great success. We had all five of our regions represented to discuss a variety of topics for our upcoming Service Delivery Plan (SDP): high school graduation, preschool, Out of School Youth (OSY), and math and reading (K-12). Several parents provided us with a variety of feedback that we will use when implementing our SDP.

Parents had the opportunity to rotate through the SDP topics and provide feedback. The high school graduation group was facilitated by Michael Hay, southern regional coordinator, and Cindy Sasser, western regional coordinator. They asked parents a variety of questions about graduation and requirements. They also explained Individual Learning Plans (ILP) is and how they are used. The parents really valued the information and wanted more information on several items including:

- How to help students decide what they want to do after high school.
- Career options for students.
- Scholarship information – types of scholarships, dates to apply, application process, etc.
- How to motivate kids to stay in school, graduate and go to college?
- What are credits and when do students begin accruing them?
- Where can students go to college in Kentucky?
- Will community college credits trans-

fer to a university?

- How do you qualify for sports scholarships?
- For OSY, what is the process to return to school? Become a 'recovery youth'?
- How can children participate in sports when they arrive in the district after teams are selected?
- What is homeschool? How can kids qualify?
- What classes are required for each grade level in middle and high school?

Districts can share some of this information with parents at district or regional PAC meetings. Districts can also bring in guest speakers to share information on these topics at parent involvement events.

The preschool group was facilitated by Jackie Roth, northern regional coordinator and regional recruiter Robert Bell. Roth and Bell explained to parents what an SDP is and why it is important. The group then asked questions to get feedback about preschool students.

First they asked whether the parents were familiar with the preschool programs in their district. Though the parents at this PAC meeting said they were familiar with the programs they didn't know how much each of them cost or when to apply.

The preschool group also explained that the preschool screener was developed using a variety of different tools. The parents seemed to understand its importance and wanted it to be used in the summer to help their children.

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The parents didn't have any additions or corrections to make to the screener.

Parents were also asked what they need to help their preschooler. The parents said they would like to be trained on the materials that the tutors are using with their children. They mentioned they would like workbooks that focus on tracing letters and numbers, books on tape, flashcards and magnetic shapes, letters and numbers for the refrigerator. Most importantly they wanted information on how to get their preschooler screened and registered for preschool.

April Harper led the combined reading and math groups and received feedback from parents about the SDP. The parents asked that all resources and information be provided in their native language. They would also love to have technology in their homes because it would help with homework.

Their biggest concern was lack of internet service. Parents also liked the idea of giving students the books that they are expected to read the following year during the summer. The parents asked if they could be provided the same books

in their native language so that they could read along with their children.

Parents also mentioned that not all students need review during the summer, some need to learn new ideas as well.

The last group was led by Brock Baber, eastern regional advocate, and Laura Puente, eastern regional recruiter. They shared ideas to help our OSY population. The parents felt that the regional service center should provide more than one lesson per month. They felt that there needs to be more practice so that the the OSYs would be able to retain the information.

A suggestion was to offer more than once a month services to OSYs who show an interest. Parents also suggested having the OSY lessons at a place where more OSYs could attend. They also mentioned providing OSYs with a certificate of achievement to document that they attended a particular lesson.

The one OSY that attended our PAC meeting mentioned that this could be used as a motivational tool.



Brock Baber and Laura Puente discussing OSY with the parents.

After the SDP groups, we gathered information from the parents about the re-interview process. Finally, we had a guest speaker from KET talk about "Dropping Back in." She shared a heartwarming video about people who went back to school and the impact it had on their lives. Overall we

had a very productive meeting. The kids had a great time at the Louisville Science Center and we got some great information from their parents. Districts, please use the information from the state PAC to structure your program and make improvements.

## Eastern Region PAC meeting

*By Brock Baber, Eastern Regional Advocate*

The Eastern Region held a spring Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and Parent Involvement (PI) meeting on March 26th at Gattitown in Lexington. The meeting was productive with the parent representatives extremely involved in the discussion about the Service Delivery Plan (SDP) process. The council consisted of parents from Mason, Clark, Lewis, Montgomery and Wolfe counties.

The eastern parent representatives also each attended the state PAC. The staff from Migrant Education Program facilitated the discussion, obtained feedback and allowed time for the parents to practice and take notes.

Parents were assigned one category from the SDP (preschool, math, reading, high school graduation/dropout prevention and Out of School Youth (OSY)) and asked to report their feedback and summary of the discussion to the PI meeting immediately following the PAC meeting.

The parents did a fantastic job presenting each category. The PAC parents were provided with an opportunity to present using Powerpoint and each parent embraced the opportunity. Margarita Di Salvo, migrant education specialist from ESCORT, and Heather Rhorer, from KDE, with the planning process alongside the Eastern Region. Parents from several counties participated including Bath, Mason, Clark, Lewis, Menifee, Montgomery, and Wolfe. During the meeting David Scott, a representative from Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, discussed changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid process and financial aid opportunities.

The parents were very interested in the information. Migrant Education Program (MEP) representatives provided the parents with summer planning and services information. Middle school students in grades 6-9, will have the opportunity to attend a summer camp June 13-17 at Eastern Kentucky University. The camp will include students from the Eastern, Northern and Southern regions. The camp will allow students to begin preparation in the college- and career-readiness areas. Students will learn how to write scholarship essays, apply for scholarships, work on ILPs and understand the importance of being proactive in their education.

Also, there will be fun and games. During the PAC, parents were given a choice of two summer camps for 9th through-12th-graders – a Ucamp at Asbury University or IT Tech Camp at the University of Louisville. The parents felt that the Asbury camp was the best option because it was closer and offered a variety of choices.

The camp includes college course-like programs such as media communications, adventure leadership, creative writing, biology, equine (horse care), brass camp, director and screenwriter process, visual arts and audio production. The parents felt that this camp was a great option for their children. Morehead United Methodist Church donated laundry baskets filled with household items for each family. In addition to a few door prizes, families also were able to spend an hour playing with their children in the game room.



David Scott, from KHEAA, discusses financial aid with the regional parents at the Parent Involvement meeting.

PAC representatives and regional parents discuss the SDP with migrant staff at the PAC meeting.



Regional kids enjoy a movie during the PAC and PI meeting.

# Metcalfe County Middle School Student of the Month

By: Henry Jefferson Reece Herbert, Metcalfe advocate/recruiter



The Metcalfe County Migrant Education Program (MEP) would like to congratulate Jovana Cuevas on being the student of the month at Metcalfe County Middle School. While many schools honor and recognize their students for their achievements, the school only awards two students each year.

Jovana was recognized by the Board of Education for being an outstanding student. Jovana, who is in 8th grade, maintains good grades and sets good examples for other students inside and outside of school. Jovana helps teachers with Spanish pronunciations and contributes Spanish words to the vocabulary list displayed in the school cafeteria.

The Metcalfe County district is proud of this young woman because she is incredibly talented in the arts and is always willing to help others. On Fridays, she helps Pamela Stearns at the Family Resource and Youth Services Center (FRYSC) hand out the backpack food to several students.

The MEP has translated during Admissions and Release Committee (ARC) meetings for Jovana's mother and each time all the teachers let her know what a joy it is to have Jovana in their classrooms. Congratulations once again Jovana for being the student of the month at Metcalfe County Middle School.

## Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

By: Christina Benassi, State Identification and Recruitment Coordinator

Recently Kentucky State Migrant Education Director Heather Rhorer, and myself attended the Annual State Directors Meeting in Washington, D.C. We learned some valuable information I want to share.

First, the federal government has signed a new law entitled "Every Student Succeeds Act" (ESSA). This law reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). We are now in a period of transition. During this time, there have been three "Dear Colleague Letters" sent out from the U.S. Department of Education. The Federal government as of Feb. 4, intended to establish a rulemaking committee to determine how the new law will be implemented.

If you have questions concerning the law, email [essa](mailto:essa@ed.gov).

[questions@ed.gov](mailto:questions@ed.gov). Your questions will be noted, but do not expect a final answer since the government is in a period of transition, which they call "listening mode."

ESSA has several changes that will impact the Migrant Education Program (MEP). At this point, there is not Non-Regulatory Guidance (NRG) telling us what the federal government expects. Some of the changes deal with the funding the state receives for migrant students, priority for service definitions and more. Since there is no interpretation of the law, everyone now has the opportunity to ask the government questions. At the state directors meeting, the government officials listened to our questions, but did not have the answers. Any new information will be communicated in the newsletter.

## Learning lifelong skills: Students celebrate conclusion of six-week Life Skill Cooking Class

By Steve Foley of The Winchester Sun

For a pilot program, all seemingly went well for students and faculty members involved in the George Rogers Clark High School English Language Learners (ELL) and Migrant Education Program's combined Life Skill Cooking Class.

Under the director of ELL instructor Crystal Rodriguez, Migrant Education Program instructor Karen Garcia, Clark County Cooperative Extension Nutrition Education Program's Sandy Kennedy and GRC instructors Elena Davis and Madeline Potter, 18 students participated in the six-week long pilot program which taught various cooking and healthy eating skills utilized during the student's I time.

Students and faculty celebrated the conclusion of the class with a mini-graduation ceremony along with cake and ice cream.

All students also received a celebratory cooking apron and cleaning utensil.

"We decided to put all our ELL and MEP students together during this time," Garcia said. "They can either do homework, mentoring or other school related things.

"We then decided we wanted to provide services for the kids, they can't get outside," Garcia added. "So let's bring someone in."

The person they brought in was Kennedy, who after talking with staff at GRC discovered there was a need for students at the high school.

"We implemented American food with their cultural food, Hispanic, and made some Mexican dishes and tried to implement things like that during their I time," Kennedy said.

"We wanted to do something hands on and I've always thought it's important when you teach, you teach something hands on."

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“When they see it, hear it or can touch it, they can do it.”

Kennedy said the class had an enjoyable time with various recipes they made utilizing an electric skillet or using various kitchen knives to learn how to properly chop and slice vegetables and meat.

“They learned a lot about kitchen safety,” Kennedy said. “They learned there’s certain temperatures you have to have when cooking meat.”

Being able to actually cook and take what they learned in class to their families at home was also something Kennedy was proud of.

“The students were really interested in the hands-on process,” Kennedy said. “They wanted to know what they could do to implement it and what they could take from the program so they and their families could eat better, healthier and help budget their money.

“In this day and time, the economic issue comes up of how can we save money by using a skillet to cook meals, or how to use whole grain pasta than regular pasta or how to implement more fruits and vegetables into their diet that they may not be getting. Those were some of the issues we tackled.”

Kennedy said she brought several lessons from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service’s MyPlate guide, and was happy to see the students gain more knowledge about healthy cooking and eating.

“It’s overwhelming and I’ve enjoyed it so much,” Kennedy

said. “I was very intimidated with just the language alone, I don’t speak Spanish, but it’s such a beautiful language and I’ve had wonderful help from the I time staff. They’ve helped me develop a relationship with each and every one.

“I’m already looking forward to doing this next year.”

Rodriguez said the class was great for overall student involvement.

“A lot of them came into the class and were very shy and found a group they could talk to,” Rodriguez said. “We split them up and spread them out and had them socialize with other students and saw a huge improvement with this class.”

Rodriguez said attendance during the class was never an issue.

“Some students would never come to class, but we encouraged them to show up and if you enjoy it, by all means be here,” Rodriguez said. “We’ve had near perfect attendance from the students.”

William Diaz, a freshman at GRC, said he enjoyed his experience in the class.

“Cooking is fun and it’s something you’re going to have to learn because your parents aren’t going to be there to cook for you your whole life,” Diaz said. “Everything here was fun, like cooking salads and chicken on the skillet. Some of the recipes were new to me and I liked cooking them.”

Steve Foley may be contacted at [sfoley@winchestersun.com](mailto:sfoley@winchestersun.com). Follow him on Twitter @SteveFoley8.

## Kentucky Out of School Youth Profile

By Kevin Donn, of Management Services for Education Data

Several states have begun to add Out of School Youth (OSY) Profiles to their MIS2000 systems, but I think Kentucky is the first to get it integrated into their web application.

We’d like to remind everyone that there’s never a charge to add new kinds of migrant data to your MIS2000 system. If it helps you serve the students or make you more productive, we’d like to know about it.

Here’s a screenshot of Kentucky’s new page:

OSY Profile » Enrollments 8/12/15

Student	ARLENE RAMIREZ GARCIA	MISX
Facility	OAKVIEW ELEMENTARY	Enroll
Reading Instruction		Math
Advising Service	B	Other

Date  MEP Project

Address/Camp 2313 HART RIDGE ROAD THREE RIVERS, KY 42330

Optional: How long is youth planning on being in the area?

Has access to transportation?  Last grade attended?  When? (year)

English oral language proficiency?  Home language  
☐ English ☐ Spanish ☐ Other

Health needs  
☐ Medical ☐ Vision ☐ Dental ☐ Urgent ☐ Other

Advocacy needs  
☐ Legal ☐ Childcare ☐ Translation/Interpretation ☐ Other

A demo of the Kentucky system is available here:

<https://test.msedd.com/KY/Migrant/Student.aspx?det=OSY&StudentSeq=208985>

### Important Dates:

- National Association of State Directors of Migrant Education (NASDME) Conference, San Diego, Calif. April 24-27
- Eastern and Northern Regional Meeting, Lexington, Ky. May 2
- Southern Regional Meeting, Richmond, Ky. May 3
- Western Regional Meeting, Madisonville, Ky. May 4
- Central Regional Meeting, Glasgow, Ky. May 6
- Southern Regional Blitz, Location TBD June 21-25

